

IN THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Claim 1 (Canceled).

Claim 2 (Previously Presented): The laminate according to Claim 11, wherein each of the titanium oxide layers has a refractive index of at least 2.4 at a wavelength of 550 nm.

Claim 3 (Canceled).

Claim 4 (Previously Presented): The laminate according to Claim 11, wherein the thickness of each interlayer independently is from 0.1 to 30 nm.

Claim 5 (Canceled).

Claim 6 (Previously Presented): The laminate according to Claim 11, wherein the sheet resistance value is from 0.5 to 3.5 Ω / \square , the visible light transmittance is at least 40%, and the visible light reflectance is at most 10%.

Claim 7 (Previously Presented): The laminate according to Claim 11, wherein a resin film having a low-reflecting property is further laminated thereon.

Claim 8 (Previously Presented): The laminate according to Claim 11, wherein a resin film having a near-infrared shielding property is further laminated thereon.

Claim 9 (Previously Presented): The laminate according to Claim 11, wherein the visible light reflectance is at most 3%.

Claim 10 (Canceled).

Claim 11 (Currently Amended): A laminate which comprises a substrate, and a titanium oxide layer, a metal layer and a titanium oxide layer laminated alternately in this order on the substrate in $(2n + 1)$ layers (wherein n is a positive integer), wherein an interlayer having a refractive index of less than 2.4 at a wavelength of 550 nm is interposed at at least two interlaminar boundaries between the titanium oxide layer and the metal layer, wherein

each interlayer independently is a layer consisting of at least one member selected from the group consisting of a nitride, an oxynitride, a carbide, a boride, niobium oxide, GZO, and ITO, and wherein each metal layer independently is a layer containing ~~at least one metal selected from the group consisting of silver as the sole or main component, copper and gold~~ and which laminate contains at least two metal layers.

Claim 12 (Canceled)

Claim 13 (Currently Amended): The laminate according to Claim ~~12~~ 11, which contains at least three metal layers.

Claim 14 (Previously Presented): The laminate according to Claim 13, which contains at least four metal layers.

Claim 15 (Currently Amended): The laminate according to Claim ~~12~~ 11, wherein all metal layers are sandwiched between two interlayers.

Claims 16-21 (Canceled)

Claim 22 (Currently Amended): ~~A laminate which comprises a substrate, and a titanium oxide layer, a metal layer and a titanium oxide layer laminated alternately in this order on the substrate in $(2n+1)$ layers (wherein n is a positive integer), wherein an interlayer having a refractive index of less than 2.4 at a wavelength of 550 nm is interposed at at least one interlaminar boundary between the titanium oxide layer and the metal layer, and~~ The laminate according to Claim 11, wherein each metal layer independently is a layer containing at least one metal selected from the group consisting of Ag-Pd alloy (0.1 to 5 atomic % Pd), Ag-Au alloy (0.1 to 5 atomic % Au), and Ag-Pd-Cu alloy (0.1 to 3 atomic % each of Pd and Cu).

Claims 23-30 (Canceled)

DISCUSSION OF THE AMENDMENT

Claim 11 has been amended by limiting the laminate to one containing at least two metal layers (as supported in Claim 12) and silver as the sole or main metal layer component (see the specification at page 11, lines 10-11) in these layers. Claims 12, 16-21 and 23-30 have been canceled as redundant. Claims 13, 15 and 22 have been amended to depend on Claim 11, with Claim 22 further limited to the recited Ag-Pd alloy.

No new matter has been added by the above amendment. With entry thereof, Claims 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13-15 and 22 would be pending in the application.

ELECTION

The Examiner has restricted the claimed invention as follows:

Group 1

Species 1, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one oxide interlayer.

Sub-Species A, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one NbO_x interlayer.

Sub-Species B, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one GZO interlayer.

Sub-Species C, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one ITO interlayer.

Sub-Species D, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one oxynitride interlayer.

Species 2, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one nitride interlayer.

Sub-Species A, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one nitride of silicon interlayer.

Sub-Species B, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one nitride of boron (boride) interlayer.

Sub-Species C, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one nitride of aluminum interlayer.

Sub-Species D, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one oxynitride interlayer.

Species 3, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one carbide interlayer.

Group II

Species 1, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one Ag-Pd alloy metal layer.

Species 2, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one Ag-Au alloy metal layer.

Species 3, drawn to a laminate comprising at least one Ag-Pd-Cu alloy metal layer.

The Examiner has required an election of species from each of Groups I and II, and in the event that Species 1 or Species 2 is chosen from Group I, that a single Sub-Species (A, B, C, or D) be elected.

Applicants have elected **with traverse** Group I, Species 2, Subspecies A, i.e., a laminate comprising at least one nitride of silicon interlayer, and Group II, Species 1, i.e., a laminate comprising at least one Ag-Pd alloy metal layer.

Claims 2, 4, 6-9, 11, 13-15 and 22 read on the elected species.

Restriction is only proper in a national stage application filed pursuant to 35 U.S.C. 371 if the application lacks unity of invention under 37 CFR 1.475. See 37 CFR 1.499 and MPEP 1893.03(d). The Examiner has not made out a case of lack of unity of invention.

A group of inventions is considered linked as to form a single general inventive concept where there is a technical relationship among the inventions that involves at least one common or corresponding special technical feature, i.e., the technical feature that defines the contribution which each claimed invention, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art. See, for example, PCT Rule 13.2 and Examples 1-30 of Annex B Part 2 of the PCT Administrative Instructions as in force from April 1, 1995 contained in Appendix AI of the MPEP.

The special technical feature here that informs all the claimed inventions is a laminate which comprises a substrate, and a titanium oxide layer, a metal layer and a titanium oxide layer laminated alternately in this order on the substrate in $(2n + 1)$ layers (wherein n is a positive integer), wherein an interlayer having a refractive index of less than 2.4 at a wavelength of 550 nm is interposed at at least one interlaminar boundary between the titanium oxide layer and the metal layer, and wherein each metal layer independently is a layer containing silver as the sole or main component, and which laminate contains at least two metal layers.

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In view of the above, it is respectfully requested that the Election of Species Requirement be withdrawn, and that all claims of the application be examined.